

WACCAMAW RIVER

NORTH CAROLINA

Project Name: Waccamaw River Water Trail

Project Type:

- Recreation (National Water Trail)
- Education

Project Description: The Waccamaw River and its corridor contain critical floodplain and an important wildlife migration corridor, while also supporting many recreational opportunities and several new adventure tourism businesses. The Waccamaw River Water Trail, stretching across North and South Carolina, would be a two-state water trail from its source at Lake Waccamaw in North Carolina to Winyah Bay in South Carolina.

The 60,000-acre Waccamaw River floodplain, in southeastern North Carolina, stretches south to the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina, as one of the largest contiguous wildlife habitats in the southern coastal plain. Significant features include three endemic natural communities, an endemic plant species, and 11 endemic animal species, including the federally-listed Waccamaw silverside, Waccamaw darter, and Waccamaw killifish.



American Rivers

Lead Federal Agency:

- National Park Service

Non-Federal Partners:

- American Rivers
- Winyah Rivers Foundation
- Brunswick County
- Columbus County
- Cape Fear Council of Governments
- Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration
- North Carolina State Parks
- NC State Trails Program
- NC Coastal Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Outcomes for 2012:

- Obtain National Water Trail designation
- Identify river access points along the 48 miles of river corridor in North Carolina
- Complete water trail event (media and key stakeholders kayak outing)
- Identify a key river access point for beginning the Water Trail
- Begin collecting base data for producing trail guide